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Department of State

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234739

E.O. 12356: DECL; OADR
TAGS: CASC (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/W - JOHN J. SULLIVAN

REF: SAN SALVADOR 198380

1. BEFORE FORWARDING THE X-RAYS OF THE NUEVO CUSTCATLAN REMAINS TO THE SULLIVAN FAMILY, THE DEPT. REQUESTED THE SMITHSONIAN'S DEPT. OF PHYSICAL ANTHROPOLOGY TO MAKE AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW. THE FBI HAD RECOMMENDED THE SMITHSONIAN AS EXPERT IN MATTERS RELATING TO SKELETAL REMAINS. THE PRINCIPLE FINDING OF FOUR MEMBERS OF THE SMITHSONIAN'S STAFF IS THAT THE X-RAYS ARE THOSE OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHOSE MAXIMUM AGE WAS NOT OVER THIRTY FIVE YEARS. IN FACT, THEIR MORE PRECISE ESTIMATE PLACED THE INDIVIDUAL'S AGE IN THE MID-TWENTIES.

2. THE DEPT. SENT THE WASHING LABEL TAKEN FROM THE GARMENT WORN BY THE NUEVO CUSCATLAN CORPSE TO THE CALVIN KLEIN COMPANY FOR COMMENT. SULLIVAN WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN WEARING CALVIN KLEIN CORDUROY JEANS. THE FIRM REPORTS QUOTE: THIS CARE LABEL IS TYPICAL OF THE CARE LABEL THAT WE WOULD HAVE SEWN IN A CALVIN KLEIN JEAN MADE OF CORDUROY. UNQUOTE. IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH A DEPT. OFFICER, CALVIN KLEIN REPORTED THAT A SMALL FRAGMENT UNDER THE

STITCHING TO THE JEANS WOULD HAVE CARRIED THE FIRMS IDENTIFICATION WHICH WOULD HAVE MADE IDENTIFICATION POSITIVE.

3. THE SMITHSONIAN'S FINDINGS SUGGESTS THAT IT MIGHT BE WELL FOR THE ESTIMATE OF THE HEIGHT OF THE NUEVO CUSCATLAN REMAINS TO BE REVIEWED. THE SMITHSONIAN EXPERTS SUGGEST THAT SUCH ESTIMATES ARE OPEN TO A VARIETY OF ERRORS. EVEN IF A MORE ACCURATE ESTIMATE OF HEIGHT MATCHED THAT OF SULLIVAN, IT STILL WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO PROVE CONCLUSIVELY THAT THE REMAINS WERE THOSE OF SULLIVAN. NONETHELESS, WE BELIEVE IT DESIRABLE TO CONSIDER ALL POSSIBLE STEPS.

4. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT IS THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE HAND WHICH WAS REPORTED WHEN THE BODY WAS FOUND. WE ALSO NOTE THAT THE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW ONLY THE LOWER PORTION OF THE BODY; WAS THE REMAINDER OF THE TRUNK TOTALLY DESTROYED? COULD THE SOIL IN THE VACINITY OF THE EXPLOSION BE SIFTED IN AN ARCHEOLOGICAL FASHION FOR TEETH AND OR SKULL FRAGMENTS?

5. DOES THE EMBASSY CONSIDER TRANSPORTATION OF THE NUEVO CUSCATLAN REMAINS TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FURTHER EXAMINATION HERE FEASIBLE? SHULTZ

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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